

## SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR OPTIMIZING ONLINE AUCTIONS

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### 5    ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

          A method for determining the configuration of a hardware item use with an  
online auction system is disclosed. The configuration is determined by sending a  
unique code to the manufacturer that manufactured the hardware and receiving  
configuration data corresponding to the hardware. The configuration is further  
10    determined by executing configuration utility software that analyzes the hardware  
using diagnostic routines as well as analyzing the operating system registry for  
hardware information. Re-use of components in the old computer system in a new  
computer system is also disclosed for maximizing total value of the purchase of a new  
computer system by re-using high value components. The method retrieves the street  
15    price corresponding to the old computer system and subtracts the price from the new  
computer price without the reused components in order to minimize the cost of the  
transaction. A computer system for receiving configuration data and submitting an  
auction description to an online auction site is further disclosed.